

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
PETER J. ROWAN OF THE U.S.  
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Lt. Col. Peter J. Rowan. Since July 1998, Lt. Col. Rowan has served as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' District Engineer for the Chicago District. His term in Chicago is nearly at its end, and he is scheduled to leave for his next posting in late July.

Over the course of the last two years, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him as we partnered up on a number of projects. The Chicago Shoreline, TARP, Stoney Creek, and the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The list goes on and on and on. In every case and in every instance, he has done a wonderful job in working with my staff and me.

Lt. Col. Rowan began his career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 1979. He continued his education and received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. He also undertook additional studies in the Engineer Officers Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

He then used his advanced training to further Corps missions across the United States, from Colorado to Nebraska to Kansas and Texas. He also served combat-related assignments in Germany. For the 249th Engineer Battalion in Karlsruhe, he was a platoon leader, company executive officer, and assistant operations officer. He then went on to serve as assistant corps engineer with V Corps, part of the 130th Engineer Brigade in Heidelberg.

His hard work and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Lt. Col. Rowan is the recipient of a number of awards and decorations for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

But his most heartwarming accomplishment may very well be that of his family. Lt. Col. Rowan is a devoted husband to his wife and a wonderful father to four children.

I know that I speak for my colleagues from Chicagoland when I say that Lt. Col. Rowan's professionalism, responsiveness, and leadership is an asset to the Corps and our nation. He has done so much for the Chicago District, and I know he will continue to do even more in his career. I salute Lt. Col. Rowan and wish him and his family all the best.

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS IN  
CONGRESS

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a successful anti-violence organization

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

in my district. Founded in 1982 in Kansas City, the STOP Violence Coalition's mission is to promote non-violence through education, programming, and collaboration. The program serves 25,000 students, parents, educators, and inmates each year through kindness education, bullying prevention, and inmate rehabilitation. Its founder and one of my constituents, SuEllen Fried, is a well-known leader in the fields of child abuse and peer abuse prevention.

The STOP Violence Coalition has had success with many of its programs. The Reaching Out From Within™ program, directed toward inmate rehabilitation, has a 23% recidivism rate, compared to the national average of approximately 60%. The Coalition has also compiled the 12 Contributing Factors to Violence™, organized the Elder Rights Coalition™, and collaborated with area agencies to address issues related to violence prevention and organization. The Coalition has received the 1999 National American Community Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

One of the STOP Violence Coalition's most effective programs is the Kindness is Contagious™ program. Last week, at the request of another community leader, who is also of my constituents, Norman Polsky, I distributed Kindness is Contagious . . . Catch it! buttons to each of my colleagues in the House. The purpose of the buttons is to wear the Kindness button until someone is observed behaving kindly toward another, at which time the button is passed on. The recipient is asked to observe others for kind behavior and to pass on the button to someone else who deserves the recognition. Thus it become everyone's responsibility to continue the chain of kindness and giving.

Though the program is school-based, the message is not just for youth. Youth and grown-ups alike need to keep in mind that although we have strong feelings and will disagree about certain things, at the end of the day we should always treat people with the dignity they deserve.

Nearly 300,000 students in 400 Kansas City area schools have participated in Kindness is Contagious™, which promotes the passing of the Kindness button. Since June of this year, over 1,500 inquiries from concerned citizens throughout the country and world have contacted the STOP Violence Coalition to see how they can start the Kindness program in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, this program is something that has made people around the nation stop and think about their personal behavior and how it affects others, something all of us—within and outside of Congress—should always keep in mind. I would like to thank SuEllen Fried and Norman Polsky for their leadership and vision with these programs and their many efforts throughout our community. I commend them for their tireless service and dedication.

I hope these buttons will change hands many times and encourage caring, consideration, and compassion. I will be wearing this button in an effort to promote kindness. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and spread this program to their districts.

*July 24, 2000*

TRIBUTE TO MS. DEBBIE RUMMEL:  
MIDWEST DISTRICT HIGH  
SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATOR  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to take this opportunity to officially recognize an outstanding educator from the 16th district of Illinois for her important contributions to advancing educational excellence in Illinois.

Ms. Debbie Rummel lives in Spring Grove and is a physical education teacher at Antioch Community High School in Antioch, IL. She exemplifies the innovation and encouragement that teachers can bring to education. Ms. Rummel has recently been recognized by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) for her outstanding teaching skills and her ability to influence students to continue to engage in physical activities throughout life.

Beyond receiving NASPE's Midwest District High School Physical Educator of the Year Award, Ms. Rummel has also been inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Athletic Hall of Fame, granted a Nutrition Education Teaching Award from Illinois NET, and received a Governor's Award of Excellence in Physical Education and Fitness.

I am honored and pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication that characterizes Ms. Rummel's gift of teaching.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Monday, July 17 when rollcall votes numbered 401, 402, 403 and 404 were cast. Had I been present in the Chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 401, "yes" on rollcall vote 402, "yes" on rollcall vote 403 and "no" on rollcall vote 404.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, last week I was granted leave of absence for July 19, 2000 and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted on the following rolls, as indicated:

No. 412—On Passage of H.R. 1102, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act—"Yea";

No. 413—On Agreeing to the Conference Report for the Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2001, H.R. 4576—"Yea";